

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A supporting device for a person's back and head area, with a back support section and with a head support section, ~~characterized in that, in a supporting position, wherein~~ a partial area of the back support section ~~(2 to 2n)~~ has, at the level of ~~shoulder blade~~ areas of the person's back area, a support surface ~~(4 to 4n)~~ in a spinal column area and, on both sides of the support surface ~~(4 to 4n)~~, open areas ~~(3 to 3n)~~ which are configured in such a way that the support surface in the spinal column area is sufficiently narrow to support only the spinal column and the shoulder blade areas can move downward past the support surface without interference.

2. (Currently Amended) The supporting device as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the head support section ~~(5 to 5n)~~ and the back support section ~~(2 to 2n)~~ are separate structural parts which can be fitted to each other for the supporting position, forming the open areas ~~(3 to 3n)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The supporting device as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the open areas are formed by laterally open recesses ~~(3 to 3n)~~ of the back support section ~~(3 to 3n)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The supporting device as claimed in claim 3, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the recesses ~~(3)~~ can be closed by detachably or movably arranged cover elements ~~(29 to 29b)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The supporting device as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the back support section ~~(2)~~ and the head support section ~~(5)~~ are integrated in a rigid support unit ~~(1)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The supporting device as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the rigid support unit ~~(1)~~ is arranged to be movable between an in particular vertical rest position and an in particular horizontal supporting position.

7. (Currently Amended) The supporting device as claimed in claim 6, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the head support section and the back support section are mounted relative to one another so as to be able to be moved between the rest position and the supporting position by guide means ~~(21, 22, 23, 28, 31)~~.

8. (Previously Presented) A home or workplace furniture item or leisure item, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ a supporting device as claimed in Claim 1 is provided.

9. (Original) The home or workplace furniture item or leisure item as claimed in claim 8, configured as a seat and/or couch.

10. (Previously Presented) An add-on unit with a head support section and a spacer part and with at least one connection element for securing the add-on unit to a surface part, the spacer part being configured as a support surface for a spinal column area, and the securing being done such that the surface part as back support section serves for the overall creation of a supporting device as claimed in Claim 1.

11. (New) A supporting device for a person's back and head area, with a back support section and with a head support section, wherein a partial area of the back support section has, at the level of shoulder blade areas of the back area, a support surface in a spinal column area and, on both sides of the support surface, open areas which are configured in such a way that the shoulder blade areas can move downward past the support surface, the open areas each having an upper edge adjacent the head support section and a lower edge adjacent the back support section, the lower edge being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal centerline of the back support section.

12. (New) The supporting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the support surface in the spinal column area is sufficiently narrow to support only the spinal column and the shoulder blade areas can move downward past the support surface without interference.

**Amendments to the Drawings**

Attached are replacement drawing sheet(s) 1/9 - 3/9 and 5/9 - 9/9 for amended Figure(s) 2, 4-7, 12-14, 17, 18, 23, 24.